

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 1-20 are all the claims currently pending. Claims 1-13 and 17-19 are allowed.

By this Amendment, claims 10, 12 and 14 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 10-13 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nanba et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,545,819, hereafter Nanba). Additionally, claims 14-16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Mihara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,417,973, hereafter Mihara). The Applicant traverses the above rejections for the following reasons.

As to claim 10, the second lens unit in the zoom lens disclosed in Fig. 21 of Nanba is a cemented lens consisting of a negative lens element and a positive lens element in order from the object side to the image side. Therefore, the cemented lens in Nanba differs from the cemented lens according to claim 10 of this application in which the cemented lens consists of a positive lens element and a negative lens element in order from the object side to the image side.

As to claim 12, the second lens unit in the zoom lens disclosed in Fig. 21 of Nanba consists of a positive lens element, a negative lens element and a positive lens element in order from the object side to the image side. Therefore, the second lens unit in Nanba differs from the second lens unit according to claim 12 of this application in which the second lens unit consists of a positive lens element, a positive lens element and a negative lens element in order from the object side to the image side.

As to claim 14, the first lens unit of the zoom lens disclosed in Fig. 1 of Mihara consists of three lens elements. Therefore, the first lens unit in Mihara differs from the first lens unit according to claim 14 of this application in which the first lens unit consists of two lens element.

Accordingly, the Applicant believes that independent claims 10, 12 and 14, as well as their respective dependent claims, are patentable over Nanba and Mihara, and combination thereof.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of the application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-5114.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-5114.

Respectfully submitted,
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